



# National Alliance for Accessible Golf

## VISION

The National Alliance for Accessible Golf (Alliance) is the leader in inclusion—working to ensure the opportunity for all individuals with disabilities to play the game of golf. Formed in the summer of 2001, the Alliance is represented by major golf, recreation and therapeutic organizations in the United States; organizations that provide services for people with disabilities; and others who advocate for the inclusion of people with disabilities into society.

***Our mission is to increase participation of people with disabilities in the game of golf.***

Through golf, individuals with disabilities become actively engaged in the social fabric of a community, and derive health benefits that improve quality of life.

The Alliance headquarters is located in Hobe Sound, FL, and is governed by a Board of Directors representing those organizations instrumental in forming the Alliance and administered by an Executive Director along with a Grant Coordinator.

## OUR SUPPORTERS



11718 SE Federal Highway #324, Hobe Sound, FL 33445 • (772) 233-1879

info@accessgolf.org • www.accessgolf.org

Follow us on





# WHAT WE DO

## Awareness

The Alliance creates and promotes awareness about the benefits of accessible golf. In addition to online publications and social media marketing, the Alliance engages in speaking opportunities at conferences and other public events. Information about the benefits of golf for persons with disabilities and the golf industry must be constantly shared with the media, public, health, rehabilitation and recreation and golf professionals.

## Training

### **GAIN™ (Golf: Accessible and Inclusive Networks)**

GAIN™ is not just a golf program. It is a community-based instruction golf program primarily focused on assisting individuals with disabilities to become involved in the fabric of their community. The program uses golf as a primary vehicle to achieve that. It is also a program that includes participants without disabilities and uses socialization activities among all participants to achieve the goal of inclusion. Sites can choose from three existing GAIN™ models – a partner, camp or community.

## Education and Technical Resources

The Alliance is available to provide technical assistance and training. In addition, the Alliance has developed a toolkit to provide general guidance for individuals with disabilities who are interested in the game of golf as well as a toolkit to provide guidance to golf course owners and operators seeking ways to make their golf courses and facilities more accessible to golfers with disabilities.

## Funding

### **USGA Alliance Grant Program**

With a grant from the USGA, the Alliance administers the grant-application process for organizations providing golf programs for individuals with disabilities. The Alliance is particularly interested in applications that demonstrate focus on inclusion of people with disabilities in programs that involve those without disabilities with the ultimate goal of enhancing their inclusion into the fabric of their community.

# ACCESSIBLE GOLF AT A GLANCE

According to the 2010 US Census Bureau survey, there are approximately 57 million Americans with some form of disability. This includes 19 percent of the total US population. In other words, almost 1 in 5 US residents has a disability.

According to a study conducted by the National Center on Accessibility at Indiana University in cooperation with Clemson University:

- 10 percent of people with some disability now play golf.
- 22 percent of those with disabilities played golf before incurring their disability but are not playing now.
- 35 percent of individuals with disabilities are currently not playing golf but are interested in learning.

The study identified key factors for why those 35 percent of the people with disabilities would like to but were not playing golf and found that:

- 33 percent felt uncomfortable about playing in front of others.
- 31 percent believed that the course staff did not know how to assist them.
- 36 percent said that they needed a better understanding of the fundamentals of golf.
- 38 percent stated a need for lessons specific to their disability.